

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

April 2004



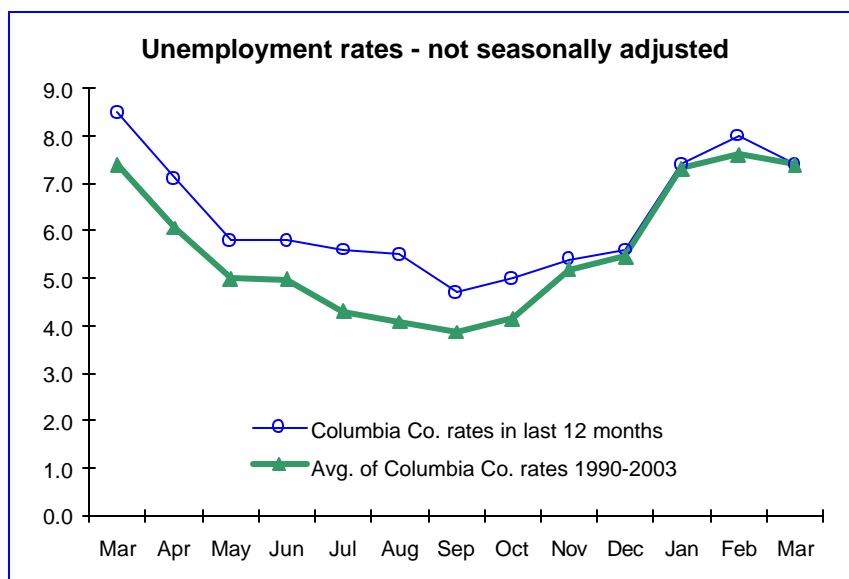
State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

Unemployment rates still generally above typical levels, but lower than last March

Columbia County's March unemployment rate matched its typical March level. This is more encouraging than any Columbia County rate in the last twelve months. From March 2003 to July 2003, construction employment estimates were virtually the same as they had been twelve months earlier. From September 2003 to March 2004, the typical autumn and winter job cuts had been slightly milder than the previous year, and initial signs of spring job growth seem encouraging. Retail & wholesale trade remains above year-ago levels, but less so than it had been from September through February.

Since last August, **Dane County's** unemployment rate has been roughly 0.6 percent to 0.8 percent above typical levels, and remains in that range. Still, at 3.1 percent, it is lower than any other Wisconsin county's rate. March 2003 construction employment estimates were lower than March 2002 estimates, so it is encouraging to see March 2004

post a higher estimate than March 2003. Indeed, construction is as far above year-ago levels as it has been at any time in the last 12 months. Despite mild February-to-March losses, the financial activities sector remained well above last year's levels.



The unemployment rate in **Dodge County** has been 1 percent to 1.4 percent above typical levels since last September. (Before that it was further above typical levels.) The information, professional, business & other services sector posted just 150 more jobs this March than last, reflecting the smallest one-year change in the last 12 months.

The leisure & hospitality sector had fewer jobs in March 2003 than March 2002, so positive growth from March 2003 to March 2004 is encouraging, especially because it follows six consecutive months with higher leisure & hospitality job estimates than the same months a year earlier.

Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	3,092,800	-6,820	46,000	451,300	-1,360	8,000	28,600	-90	530	288,700	-310	6,900
Employed	2,901,700	2,200	64,700	431,600	-110	9,500	26,500	80	790	279,700	140	7,300
Unemployed	191,200	-8,970	-18,640	19,700	-1,250	-1,570	2,100	-170	-260	9,000	-450	-430
Unemployment rate (%)	6.2	-0.3	-0.7	4.4	-0.2	-0.4	7.4	-0.6	-1.1	3.1	-0.2	-0.3

	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	47,700	-350	320	42,400	-280	-320	7,100	-80	40	36,700	-240	490
Employed	44,600	-100	720	39,800	-120	-240	6,400	20	190	34,700	-120	740
Unemployed	3,100	-250	-390	2,600	-160	-80	780	-100	-150	2,000	-120	-250
Unemployment rate (%)	6.5	-0.5	-0.9	6.0	-0.4	-0.2	10.9	-1.3	-2.2	5.6	-0.2	-0.7

** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are

Jefferson County's unemployment rate was 1.2 percent above typical in March. Although not as far above the norm as February (1.5% above), the March rate remained further above typical than most of last summer and last autumn (0.6% to 1.0% above). Leisure & hospitality employment estimates were lower in March 2003 than in March 2002. Their rise from March 2003 to March 2002 has been unsteady. Manufacturing estimates fell just as much between last March and this March as they had over the preceding year.

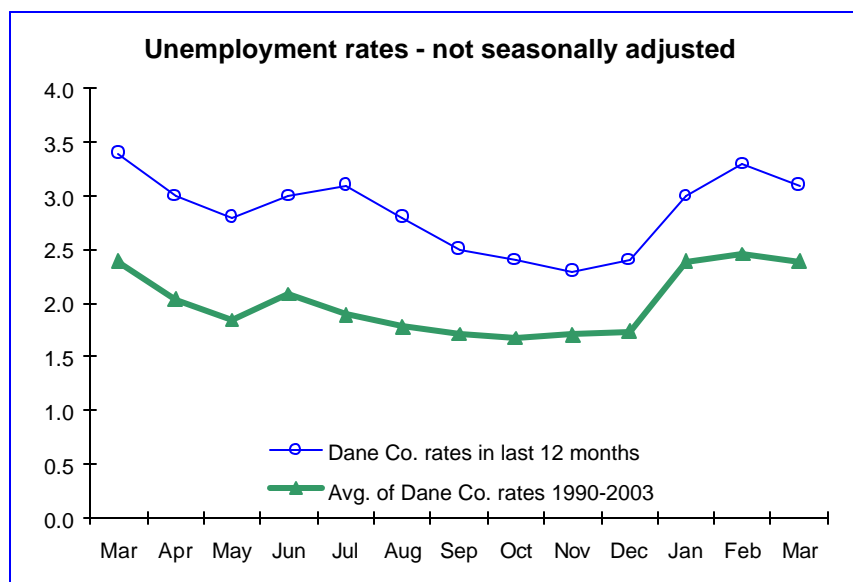
The unemployment rate in **Marquette County** was still well above its typical March level, but closer to typical than it has been in the last year and 2.2 percent lower than last March's unemployment rate. Leisure & hospitality gained fewer jobs in the summer of 2003 than the summer before, lost fewer jobs in winter of 2003-04 than the winter

before and follows the same trend this spring as last spring.

In **Sauk County** the unemployment rate is 0.7 percent lower than it was last March and remains below typical. Construction employment estimates are as high above year-ago levels as they have been in any month since last March. Leisure & hospitality is adding jobs faster this spring than it did last.

The 11th annual Governor's Workforce Development Conference, scheduled for May 19-21, 2004 in Milwaukee, will center on Governor Doyle's "Grow Wisconsin" plan. The information, resources and strategies developed during the conference will equip state staff and

business leaders with ideas on how to promote and develop Wisconsin's workforce. For more information and to register on-line go to <http://www.gwdc.net>



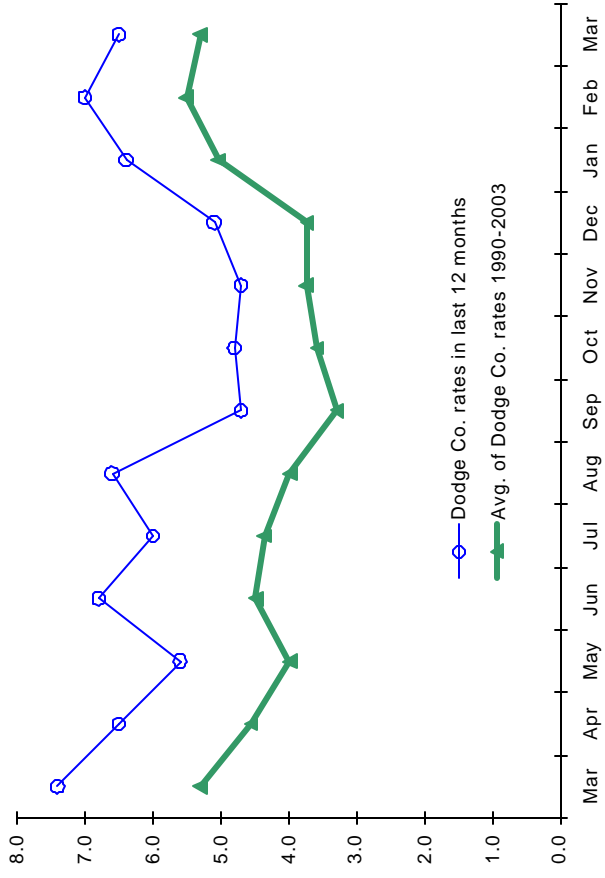
Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,761,400	13,400	34,800	421,400	1,170	3,000	20,300	170	270	294,900	800	2,900
Const., min'g & nat. resources	117,600	4,800	7,800	19,700	560	950	1,030	30	60	13,700	400	700
Manufacturing	499,500	-1,600	-4,700	57,500	10	-1,490	4,600	20	-90	26,500	100	-300
Trade (wholesale & retail)	430,000	3,100	11,500	61,900	-260	1,430	3,400	60	120	41,800	-200	1,200
Transport, Whrsing, Utilities	104,700	100	1,400	10,500	30	-360	700	10	20	6,900	-300	1,200
Financial activities	158,800	-700	3,800	30,100	-270	1,250	680	0	80	26,000	-200	1,000
Education & health services	375,500	700	13,600	44,400	30	880	2,300	20	-10	29,600	100	700
Leisure & hospitality	235,100	2,400	8,500	38,000	420	1,430	2,100	-10	160	23,800	200	600
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	420,800	2,200	-300	64,800	230	-100	1,590	20	60	51,600	100	-200
Government	419,400	2,400	-6,800	94,500	420	-970	3,800	20	-110	75,000	300	-500

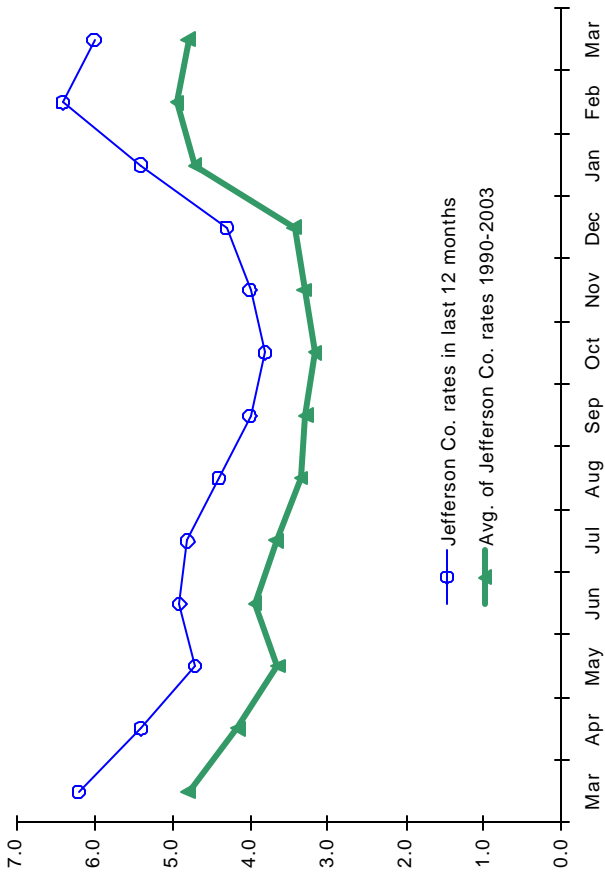
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	33,100	80	-40	34,500	20	-350	3,700	30	60	34,900	60	190
Const., min'g & nat. resources	1,800	10	-10	1,160	40	70	150	10	0	1,840	70	120
Manufacturing	10,000	-10	-400	8,900	-160	-640	1,200	0	-10	6,300	70	-50
Trade (wholesale & retail)	3,900	10	40	5,800	20	30	440	10	10	6,500	-160	50
Transport, Whrsing, Utilities	980	10	10	1,200	0	-30	60	0	0	640	10	-50
Financial activities	820	-10	10	950	0	30	150	10	10	1,520	-70	120
Education & health services	4,300	10	180	4,600	-100	-10	290	0	0	3,300	-10	30
Leisure & hospitality	2,200	30	110	3,100	70	180	370	10	20	6,400	130	370
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	3,600	40	150	4,700	70	150	220	0	0	3,100	10	-260
Government	5,500	10	-120	4,200	90	-120	840	-10	30	5,300	10	-150

*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

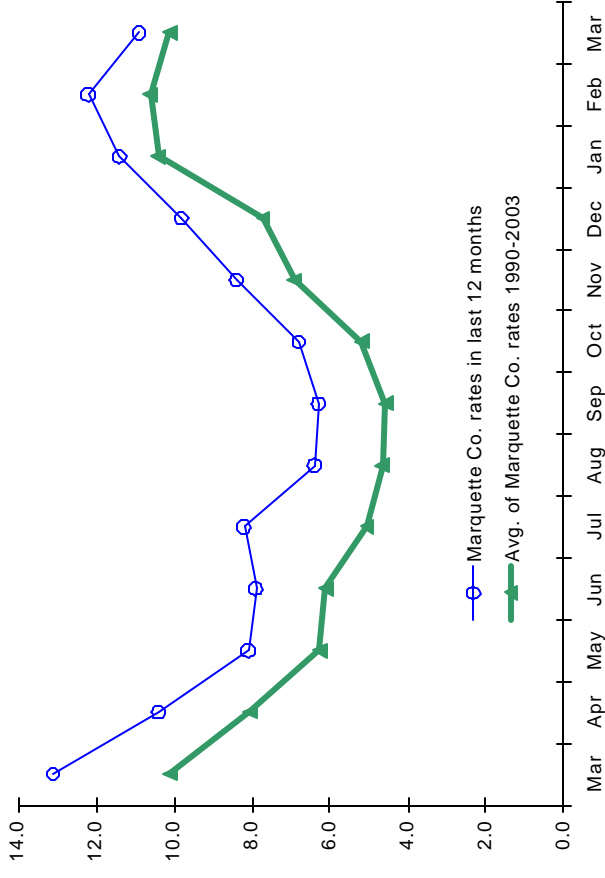
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